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PRESS RELEASE

JOINT BD-US DISASTER RESPONSE SEMINAR KICKS OFF IN DHAKA

DHAKA, SEPTEMBER 24 -- From September 25-29, 2011, the Armed Forces Division of Bangladesh and the United States Army Pacific will co-host a Bangladesh Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange (DREE) at the Lakeshore Hotel in Dhaka, with a launch event scheduled for Sunday, September 25. Chief guests at the launch include U.S. Charge d’Affaires Nicholas Dean, U.S. Army Major General Raymond Rees, and Bangladesh Air Commodore Md. Humayun Kabir.

The DREE, a comprehensive effort focusing on building multilateral interoperability in disaster response between the United States and Bangladesh, is part of Pacific Resilience, the United States Army Pacific Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Initiative. The goal of Pacific Resilience is to bring together disaster response stakeholders from government, military, and civilian agencies to discuss their varied perspectives and build working relationships for future relief endeavors, particularly in the areas of medical, logistical and civil-military operations.

Leading disaster watchdog German-based United Nations University (UNU) Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) recently ranked Bangladesh as the world's sixth "high disaster risk country" in terms of its exposure to typhoons, earthquake and tsunamis. The 6.8 magnitude earthquake in Sikkim, India, on September 18, which was felt in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country served as a stark reminder of the ever-present threat of a catastrophic event taking place in Bangladesh.

Pacific Resilience represents the ongoing efforts of United States Army Pacific and the Bangladesh Armed Forces Division to create multilateral responses to these high-priority issues. By focusing on multinational interoperability from port of entry to point of impact, this event will address the inherent “friction points” in disaster response and identify opportunities for timely preparation and improved risk mitigation.

For more information about the DREE and Pacific Resilience, please contact Patricia Hill, Press & Information Officer, U.S. Embassy Dhaka, at +88 02 885-5500 or HillPA2@state.gov.

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Note: A Bangla translation of this press release is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: DhakaPA@state.gov; Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)